

Growing a Restoration Workforce

A Workshop on Education and Training for the Restoration Economy

October 2, 2008

Location: Montana Tech, Student Union Building -Copper Lounge, Butte, MT

Registration: Free but required. <http://dnrc.mt.gov> or 406-444-2074

DRAFT AGENDA

8:30 **Refreshments** (hosted)

9:00 **Welcome** – *Pat Williams, former Rep., U.S. Congress, Montana, 1979 - 1997*

Overview – *Tom Palmer, Information Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks*

9:15 **Successful Restoration Settlements: Creating Jobs and Mending the Environment** – *Mike McGrath, Attorney General*

9:30 **Restoration Workforce Needs in Montana** *moderated by Tom Palmer, FWP*
Panelists offer a brief summary of their organizations restoration projects, including current efforts and future needs in Montana. A moderated discussion will follow, in which panelists will discuss the range of skills workers need to be successful candidates for restoration activities. Panelist will also identify skills and expertise the workforce is currently lacking, and discuss strategies for Montana's education system to address those workforce needs.

- *Darrel Stordahl, CDM, Inc.*
- *Marnie Criley, Wildlands CPR*
- *Gordy Sanders, Pyramid Mountain Lumber*
- *Need to confirm (NRCS)*
- *Need to confirm (FWP)*
- *Need to confirm (MT union rep)*

11:15 **Roundtable Feedback on Restoration Workforce Needs** *Clark Fork Watershed Education Program will assist with notes and table facilitation*

Each table answers questions:

- What are the restoration needs in MT
- What are the restoration jobs Montana needs?
- What are the knowledge and skills needs and gaps for prospective and current employees?

11:45 **Lunch** (provided) – **Keynote by Governor Schweitzer**

1:00 **Restoration Education in Montana:** *moderated by ??*

Panelists will give a 10-minute overview on the restoration-related programs their schools / organizations offer, the number of students per program, restoration-related classes, and how they coordinate with other schools.

- *Robin Shropshire, UM – Helena*
- *Kevin Mellott, MT Tech (need to confirm)*
- *Jim Burchfield, UM- Missoula*
- *Jeff Jacobsen, MSU – Bozeman*
- *Dawn Thomas, Salish Kootenai College (need to confirm)*

- *Cara Nelson, UM- Missoula*

2:30 **Summary of Morning Roundtable Workforce Needs** - *Presented by Matt Vincent, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program*
Compiled information from the morning roundtable discussions will be presented with prioritized fields and gaps noted to provide “the problem” for the work groups to “solve” in the final session.

2:50 **Break** (hosted)

3:00 **Problem-Solving Work Groups-** *introduced by Mary Sheehy Moe, Deputy Commissioner for Two Year Education*
Participants can choose from two basic work groups to propose short-term and long-term education programs to develop the restoration workforce. Work groups will propose plans for advancing restoration education and training in Montana. Participants are to identify the course or program content and connect each program’s content with “the gap” it fills.

Work Group 1: New Formal Programs - *facilitated by Mary Sexton and Joe Lamson, Director and Deputy Director, DNRC*
Identify and propose specific academic classes and apprenticeship/training programs for preparing workers in prioritized restoration fields. Make suggestions for delivery format (MUS classes, condensed, online, OTJ) and delivery location (schools, training facility, online, conferences).

Work Group 2: Interdisciplinary Restoration Education - *facilitated by Mary Sheehy Moe*
Identify how *existing* restoration classes and training programs can be used for cross-training. Can existing programs be provided in condensed, online, or traditional formats among MUS schools; Can cross-college training be built into curriculum; Can classes be offered for MUS students and technical schools; How do existing programs reach professionals and skilled workers? Make suggestions for delivery formats and locations.

4:00 **Summary of Work Group Proposals** - *Presented by each work group*

4:30 **Next Steps** - *Mary Sheehy Moe and Tom Palmer*
Closing Statements – *Hal Harper, Chief Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office*

RESTORATION WORKFORCE WORKSHOP SPONSORS

- CDM Inc.
- Envirocon
- Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
- Montana AFL-CIO
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Montana Tech of the University of Montana
- State of Montana, Governor’s Office
- University of Montana’s O’Conner Center for the Rocky Mountain West
- Western Progress